Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 COLOMB 02482 191118Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 TRSE-00 MCT-01 OC-06 CCO-00 SY-05 OPR-02
A-01 OMB-01 AGRE-00 COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04 SIL-01
/085 W
----------112877 191216Z /45
R 190940Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7707
INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE COLOMBO 2482

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, CE

SUBJ: ELECTION VIOLENCE

REF: (A) COLOMBO 2172; (B) COLOMBO 2425

1. THE SALE OF LIQUOR IS BANNED FROM TODAY THROUGH SATURDAY, PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS ARE FORBIDDEN THROUGH SATURDAY, AND THE POLICE AND ARMY ARE ON ALERT. THESE AND OTHER PRECAUTIONS (TAKEN TO A LESSER EXTENT IN PAST ELECTIONS) HAVE BEEN PUT INTO EFFECT TO AVERT THE FEARED BLOOD-LETTING AFTER THURSDAY'S ELECTION AND IN RECOGNITION THAT THIS HAS TURNED INTO ONE OF THE MOST VIOLENT CAMPAIGNS SRI LANKA HAS SEEN. EIGHT OR NINE DEATHS HAVE BEEN LINKED DIRECTLY TO THE CAMPAIGN AND THERE HAVE BEEN NUMEROUS LOCAL REPORTS OF MOB VIOLENCE DIRECTED AT ONE OR ANOTHER OF THE POLITICAL PARTIES. SOME OF THE VIOLENCE CLEARLY HAS A COMMUNAL TONE, AS PRESAGED IN THE PRE-CAMPAIGN TRINCOMALEE TAMIL-SINHALESE RIOTS OF JUNE (REF A) AND THE BURNING OF ESTATE WORKERS' HOMES IN THE TEA COUNTRY (REF B). FIVE OF THE CAMPAIGN DEATHS HAVE COME FROM THE
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 COLOMB 02482 191118Z

BATTICALOA AREA OF THE EASTERN PROVINCE WHERE TAMILS, SIN-HALESE AND MOSLEMS LIVE IN CLOSE PROXIMITY. THREE MORE DEATHS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM AROUND THE ISLAND IN THE PAST SEVERAL DAYS AS THE CAMPAIGN CONTINUES TO HEAT UP. BY COMPARISON, THE PRESS HAS NOTED THAT NO POLITICALLY-MOTIVATED MURDERS WERE REPORTED IN THE 1970 CAMPAIGN.

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

2. THE UGLY NATURE OF THE CAMPAIGN HAS ONLY HEIGHTENED FEARS OF POLICE AND OTHERS THAT THERE MAY BE MORE POST-ELECTION VIOLENCE THAN IN 1970. POLICE HAVE DISCOVERED SEVERAL WEAPONS CACHES, ONE SECRETED IN A MOSQUE. AFTER SEVEN YEARS OF THIS GOVERNMENT, THERE ARE A LOT OF OLD SCORES TO BE SETTLED, PARTICULARLY IF THE OPPOSITION UNITED NATIONAL PARTY SHOULD WIN. PASSIONS ARE HIGH AND THEY ARE BEING PANDERED TO DAILY BY THE INCREASE IN SCURRILOUS POLITICAL LITERATURE AND THE INCREASINGLY SHRILL TONE OF CAMPAIGN SPEECHES, MERCIFULLY DUE TO END AT MIDNIGHT TONIGHT. (UNDER LOCAL ELECTION LAWS, ALL CAMPAIGN ACTIVITY IS FORBIDDEN ON ELECTION DAY AND THE PRECEDING DAY.)
PERKINS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS, LAW, ELECTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 19-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977COLOMB02482
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770256-0938
Format: TEL
From: COLOMBO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770744/aaaablwf.tel
Line Count: 75
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 0a6f1d68-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 COLOMBO 2172, 77 COLOMBO 2425
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1822540
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ELECTION VIOLENCE
TAGS: PINT, CE
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/0a6f1d68-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009